

trend the state has experienced since 1989. We also have the highest number of teachers who've proven their expertise by earning certification through the National Board for Professional Teaching Standards.

Voucher proponents do make one point that needs to be taken seriously—vouchers can contribute to diversity and innovation in the system. It is true that we have moved well beyond the point where one-size-fits-all education is adequate. We need to encourage schools to offer a variety of approaches. But this can readily be achieved, as is already happening, within the public system through the design and promotion of magnet, subject-focused and other alternative schools that meet the specific interests of students and their parents while meeting high standards.

Let's also not assume, as has been implied by Mr. Reich, that where parents live determines their level of interest in schools. An expensive home in the suburbs doesn't guarantee a parent is passionate about where their children are learning. We need to make sure every parent is active and involved with his or her child's education.

#### AFRICAN AMERICAN FAMILY SERVICES

Mr. WELLSTONE. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 25th anniversary of the establishment of African American Family Services.

This inspirational organization has spent the past 25 years providing culturally specific services to the Minnesota African American community. Since 1975, it has expanded its services from solely dealing with chemical dependency to providing critical services in chemical health, family preservation, domestic violence, and adolescent violence prevention and anger management.

In addition to these programs, African American Family Services provides its clients with two other invaluable services—a resource center, which includes a resource library and a cross-peer education mentoring project, and a technical assistance center, which creates training programs to educate human and social service professionals on enhancing service delivery to African American clients.

Twenty-five years after its founding, this organization is still searching for new and innovative ways to serve Minnesotans. Currently, African American Family Services is attempting to work more directly with the children of its clients, hoping that this will help to break the cycle of self-destructive behavior that many families experience.

As the leading provider of human services to the Minnesota African American community, this organization has served countless individuals and families. By providing an effective network of dedicated staff and volunteers who have worked hard to serve every person who walks through its doors, African American Family Services truly has been able to make a difference in the lives of its clients.

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to work with this wonderful organization, and am proud to commend its outstanding record of success and service to the community on the floor

of the United States Senate. Please join me in honoring all of the people who have made the success of the African American Family Services possible.

#### UNHCR DEATH IN GUINEA

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the tragic events that occurred over the weekend in the West African country of Guinea. West Africa is a very rough neighborhood, and for years Guinea has borne a heavy refugee burden, as Liberian and Sierra Leonean people have fled into its borders to escape violence in their home countries. In fact, Guinea hosts more refugees than any other country in Africa—nearly half a million of them.

The region's tensions have, unfortunately, spilled over to affect the welfare of refugees. Recently, a crisis erupted when a series of armed incursions into Guinea from Liberia and Sierra Leone provoked a violent reaction on the part of Guinean authorities who rounded up and arrested thousands of foreigners, including refugees, accusing them of aiding the attackers.

On Sunday, in the town of Macenta, Mensah Kpognon, a Togolese employee of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees was killed, and another UNHCR worker from the Ivory Coast, Sapeu Laurence Djeya, was abducted by unidentified attackers. Reports indicate that dozens of civilians were also killed in the raid.

This terrible tragedy marks the fourth murder of a UNHCR worker in less than two weeks. Three others, including an American citizen, Carlos Caceres, were murdered on September 6, 2000 in Atambua, West Timor by a militia mob while Indonesian armed forces and police failed to stop the violence.

These terrible crimes, committed against individuals who dedicated their lives to helping others in need, must not continue. All responsible members of the international community must work together to provide security for the humanitarian workers laboring in difficult conditions around the globe. Governments in the region must ensure that those responsible for these acts must be held accountable for their actions. Cross-border raids into Guinea must be stopped. And most urgently, the governments of West Africa must work to find Sapeu Laurence Djeya and to ensure her safety and freedom.

#### THE INTERNATIONAL ACADEMIC OPPORTUNITY ACT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the International Academic Opportunity Act introduced by Senator's LUGAR, FEINGOLD, COLLINS and me. This bill provides \$1.5 million in scholarships to low income college students to finance their study abroad. It is estimated that this program will help over 300 students in its first year. I believe that this legislation will pro-

vide needed resources to help low income students compete in today's global marketplace.

In this era of globalization, it has become imperative for America's students to be prepared to operate in an international environment and economy. By studying abroad, students will be exposed to different languages and cultures that will help them become the successful leaders in the future.

This scholarship, otherwise referred to as the Gilman Scholarship Act, because it was the developed by the Hon. BENJAMIN GILMAN of New York, will provide up to \$5000 per student for their study abroad. Mr. GILMAN targeted these scholarships to low income students who otherwise would not have been able to consider a study abroad program. I believe that by increasing the number of students that will benefit from an international education we can only enhance the capacity of our citizens to participate in a global society.

This legislation passed unanimously in the House and I hope that we will be able to pass it in the Senate before the end of session. I urge leadership and my fellow Senators to support a swift and unhindered passage.

#### THE VERY BAD DEBT BOXSCORE

Mr. HELMS. Mr. President, at the close of business yesterday, Tuesday, September 19, 2000, the Federal debt stood at \$5,658,234,946,688.07, five trillion, six hundred fifty-eight billion, two hundred thirty-four million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents.

Five years ago, September 19, 1995, the Federal debt stood at \$4,965,955,000,000, four trillion, nine hundred sixty-five billion, nine hundred fifty-five million.

Ten years ago, September 19, 1990, the Federal debt stood at \$3,232,292,000,000, three trillion, two hundred thirty-two billion, two hundred ninety-two million.

Fifteen years ago, September 19, 1985, the Federal debt stood at \$1,823,102,000,000, one trillion, eight hundred twenty-three billion, one hundred two million.

Twenty-five years ago, September 19, 1975, the Federal debt stood at \$550,758,000,000, five hundred fifty billion, seven hundred fifty-eight million which reflects a debt increase of more than \$5 trillion—\$5,107,476,946,688.07, five trillion, one hundred seven billion, four hundred seventy-six million, nine hundred forty-six thousand, six hundred eighty-eight dollars and seven cents during the past 25 years.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### IN RECOGNITION OF DR. JOAB M. LESESNE, JR.

• Mr. HOLLINGS. Mr. President, now here is one thing with which I can